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KZO-300-104  
KALAMAZOO MI 49001

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**JUN 12 2006**

**OFFICE OF PETITIONS**

In re Application of  
Sharma, et al.  
Application No.: 10/717,244  
Filing Date: 19 November, 2003  
Attorney Docket No. 01130.US1

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**DECISION**

This is a decision on the petition filed on 12 December, 2005, to revive the instant application under 37 C.F.R. §1.137(b) as having as abandoned due to unintentional delay.

For the reasons set forth below the petition as considered under 37 C.F.R. §1.137(b) is **DISMISSED**.

**NOTES:**

- (1) Any petition (and fee) for reconsideration of this decision must be submitted within two (2) months from the mail date of this decision. Extensions of time under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a) are permitted. The reconsideration request should include a cover letter entitled "Renewed Petition under 37 C.F.R. §1.137(b)."
- (2) Thereafter, there will be no further reconsideration of this matter.

**BACKGROUND**

The record reflects that:

- Petitioner failed to reply timely and properly to the non-final Office action mailed on 6 July, 2004, with reply due absent extension of time on or before Tuesday, 7 September, 2004;
- the application went abandoned by operation of law after midnight 6 September, 2004;
- the Office mailed the Notice of Abandonment on 10 March, 2005;
- with the instant petition (with fee), Petitioner refers to merger matters and addresses a reply to a March 2004 Notice, but does not address the failure to reply to the 6 July, 2004, Notice, to which the March, 2005 Notice of Abandonment refers—for Petitioner's information, a copy of the 6 July, 2004, Notice is enclosed (it also is available to Petitioner on Private PAIR), and this is the matter to which Petitioner must reply to satisfy his burden under the Rule.

### STATUTES, REGULATIONS AND ANALYSIS

Congress has authorized the Commissioner to "revive an application if the delay is shown to the satisfaction of the Commissioner to have been "unavoidable." 35 U.S.C. §133 (1994).<sup>1</sup>

The regulations at 37 C.F.R. §1.137(a) and (b) set forth the requirements for a petitioner to revive a previously unavoidably or unintentionally, respectively, abandoned application under this congressional grant of authority. The language of 35 U.S.C. §133 and 37 C.F.R. §1.137(a) is clear, unambiguous, and without qualification: the delay in tendering the reply to the outstanding Office action, as well as filing the first petition seeking revival, must have been unavoidable for the reply now to be accepted on petition.<sup>2</sup>

Delays in responding properly raise the question whether delays are unavoidable.<sup>3</sup> Where there is a question whether the delay was unavoidable, Petitioners must meet the burden of establishing

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<sup>1</sup> 35 U.S.C. §133 provides:

**35 U.S.C. §133 Time for prosecuting application.**

Upon failure of the applicant to prosecute the application within six months after any action therein, of which notice has been given or mailed to the applicant, or within such shorter time, not less than thirty days, as fixed by the Commissioner in such action, the application shall be regarded as abandoned by the parties thereto, unless it be shown to the satisfaction of the Commissioner that such delay was unavoidable.

<sup>2</sup> Therefore, by example, an unavoidable delay in the payment of the Filing Fee might occur if a reply is shipped by the US Postal Service, but due to catastrophic accident, the delivery is not made.

<sup>3</sup> See: *Changes to Patent Practice and Procedure; Final Rule Notice*, 62 *Fed. Reg.* at 53158-59 (October 10, 1997), 1203 *Off. Gaz. Pat. Office* at 86-87 (October 21, 1997).

that the delay was unavoidable within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §133 and 37 C.F.R. §1.137(a).<sup>4</sup> And the Petitioner must be diligent in attending to the matter.<sup>5</sup> Failure to do so does not constitute the care required under Pratt, and so cannot satisfy the test for diligence and due care.

(By contrast, unintentional delays are those that do not satisfy the very strict statutory and regulatory requirements of unavoidable delay, and also, by definition, are not intentional.<sup>6</sup>))

Allegations as to  
Unintentional Delay

The requirements for a grantable petition under 37 C.F.R. §1.137(b) are the petition and fee, a statement/showing of unintentional delay, a proper reply, and—where appropriate—a terminal disclaimer and fee if the application was filed before 8 June, 1995.

As indicated in the BACKGROUND section, above, it appears as of this writing that Petitioner has yet to satisfy the “reply” requirement under the regulation.

CONCLUSION

The petition as considered under 37 C.F.R. §1.137(b) is **dismissed**.

Further correspondence with respect to this matter should be addressed as follows:<sup>7</sup>

By mail:       Commissioner for Patents<sup>8</sup>  
                  P.O. Box 1450  
                  Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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<sup>4</sup> See: In re Application of G, 11 USPQ2d 1378, 1380 (Comm'r Pats. 1989).

<sup>5</sup> See: Diligence in Filing Petitions to Revive and Petitions to Withdraw the Holding of Abandonment, 1124 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 33 (March 19, 1991). It was and is Petitioner's burden to exercise diligence in seeking either to have the holding of abandonment withdrawn or the application revived. See 1124 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office supra.

<sup>6</sup> Therefore, by example, an unintentional delay in the reply might occur if the reply and transmittal form are to be prepared for shipment by the US Postal Service, but other pressing matters distract one's attention and the mail is not timely deposited for shipment.

<sup>7</sup> On July 15, 2005, the Central Facsimile (FAX) Number changed to (571) 273-8300. The number (571) 273-8300 is be the only facsimile number recognized for centralized delivery. (For further information. see: <http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/pac/dapp/opla/preognotice/cfax062005.pdf> .)

<sup>8</sup> To determine the appropriate addresses for other subject-specific correspondence, refer to the USPTO Web site at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov).

By FAX: IFW Formal Filings  
(571) 273-8300  
ATTN.: Office of Petitions

By hand: Mail Stop: Petition  
Customer Service Window  
Randolph Building  
401 Dulany Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Telephone inquiries concerning this decision may be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3214.



John J. Gillon, Jr.  
Senior Attorney  
Office of Petitions

Encl



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United States Patent and Trademark Office  
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APPLICATION NUMBER	FILING OR 371 (c) DATE	FIRST NAMED APPLICANT	ATTORNEY DOCKET NUMBER
10/717,244	11/19/2003	Satish Kumar Sharma	01130.US1

25533  
PHARMACIA & UPJOHN  
301 HENRIETTA ST  
0228-32-LAW  
KALAMAZOO, MI 49007

CONFIRMATION NO. 8896

FORMALITIES LETTER



\*OC000000013154950\*

Date Mailed: 07/06/2004

**NOTICE TO COMPLY WITH REQUIREMENTS FOR PATENT APPLICATIONS  
CONTAINING NUCLEOTIDE SEQUENCE AND/OR AMINO ACID SEQUENCE  
DISCLOSURES**

*Filing Date Granted*

Applicant is given **TWO MONTHS FROM THE DATE OF THIS NOTICE** within which to file the items indicated below to avoid abandonment. Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

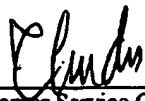
- A copy of the "Sequence Listing" in computer readable form has been submitted. However, the content of the computer readable form does not comply with the requirements of 37 CFR 1.822 and/or 1.823, as indicated on the attached copy of the marked -up "Raw Sequence Listing." Applicant must provide a substitute computer readable form (CRF) copy of the "Sequence Listing" and a statement that the content of the sequence listing information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written (on paper or compact disc) sequence listing and, where applicable, includes no new matter, as required by 37 CFR 1.821(e), 1.821(f), 1.821(g), 1.825(b), or 1.825(d).

For questions regarding compliance to these requirements, please contact:

- For Rules Interpretation, call (703) 308-4216
- To Purchase PatentIn Software, call (703) 306-2600
- For PatentIn Software Program Help, call (703) 306-4119 or e-mail at [patin21help@uspto.gov](mailto:patin21help@uspto.gov) or [patin3help@uspto.gov](mailto:patin3help@uspto.gov)

Replies should be mailed to: Mail Stop Missing Parts  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria VA 22313-1450

*A copy of this notice **MUST** be returned with the reply.*



Customer Service Center

Initial Patent Examination Division (703) 308-1202

PART 3 - OFFICE COPY